

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lob, Helke

Examiner:

Serial No:

Art Unit:

For: FIXING ELEMENT FOR BONE FRAGMENTS

Filed: 24 JAN 2001

Date: 24 JAN 2001

FS

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR 1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed on the filing date of the patent application, so it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Three (3) U.S. patents and three (3) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each is enclosed. Also enclosed in the filing papers, but not listed on the form, is a copy of an International Preliminary Search Report from the European Patent Office on PCT application PCT/EP99/05194, from which this US application is a national stage

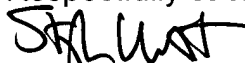
entry. The German application No. 198 35 096.1, dated 25 July 1998, which underlies the PCT application, has not has examination demanded, so there is no German Patent Office search report.

Each of the cited documents except for AD and AE are in English. Reference AD is not known to exist in an English language translation, but the reference clearly lacks important features of the present invention, so no translation is believed to be necessary. Reference AF is the Canadian family member of Reference AE, so it effectively provides an English language translation of Reference AE.

References AD and AE are owned by Prof. Dr. med. Guenter Lob, not Frau Helke Lob, the present applicant. It is the undersigned attorney's understanding that Prof. Dr. Lob and Frau Lob are husband and wife.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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